

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended.

Reconsideration in light of the following is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor (U.S. Patent No. 3,058,809).

Taylor is cited as disclosing a graphite capsule/vessel for producing boron nitride which has a cross-sectional area that allows reaction contents to be uniformly heated in order to yield boron nitride in a uniform consistency of crystallinity and purity and allows the reaction gaseous products to readily evolve. Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office with regards to the recitation in Taylor.

Taylor specifically recites “hot-pressing” a mixture of “stabilized boron nitride” and “unstabilized boron nitride” in ammonia to a temperature of 1500-1800oC. This is done under

pressure to prevent any substantial loss from the material by volatilization of boric oxide.
(col. 2, lines 4-49)

The present invention, as set forth in claim 1, specifically heats the material in a manner to allow the reactive gaseous products to evolve. Taylor fails to recite this critical step and leads one in a direction which is contrary to the claims invention.

Taylor fails to anticipate at least one element of claim 1 and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor be withdrawn due to the failure of the cited reference to teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor.

Taylor is discussed above. In summary, Taylor leads one of skill in the art to a reaction under pressure to insure that volatile reaction products do not escape.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor is improper since Taylor would lead one of skill in the art in a direction which is contrary to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn as being improper.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be patentable and notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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